JOYCE NALEPKA, PRESIDENT DRUG-FREE KIDS: AMERICA'S CHALLENGE

RE: SUBMITTED AS TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 349, AN ACT CONCERNING PENALTY FOR POSSESSION OF A SMALL AMOUNT OF MARIJUANA.

FOR OVER 25 YEARS, PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, LAW ENFORCEMENT (FROM STREET COPS TO THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE US DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, FIRST LADIES, LED BY NANCY REAGAN, BUT INCLUDING ROSLYN CARTER, LADY BIRD JOHNSON, BARBARA BUSH, LAURA BUSH AND OVER 20 FIRST LADIES FROM OTHER NATIONS HAVE GATHERED TO ATTEMPT TO STOP DRUG LEGALIZATION.

WE HAVE DEFEATED MD CONGRESSMEN NEWTON STEERS (R) AND NY JACOB JAVITS (D) FOR THEIR ATTEMPTS TO LEGALIZE "SMALL" AMOUNTS OF MARIJUANA----BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT "SMALL" AMOUNTS ARE EXACTLY WHAT MAKES IT EASIER TO CONDUCT SCHOOL GROUND DEALS.

IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT SMALL AMOUNTS ARE ALL IT TAKES TO LEAD CHILDREN TO TRY POT, THEN COCAINE, LSD, ECSTACY, ETC.

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT HAS BECOME WELL-KNOWN ON THE EAST COAST FOR BEING A GATHERING PLACE FOR DRUG USERS TO CONGREGATE. IT WAS IN HARTFORD THAT THE LEGALIZATION ADVOCATES BEGAN DISTRIBUTING "SAFE CRACK-SMOKING" PIPES SO KIDS COULD SMOKE CRACK WITHOUT BURNING OR CUTTING THEIR LIPS," AND FREE NEEDLES TO FACILITATE HEROIN USE. *SEE:INSIGHT MAGAZINE

NO RESPONSIBLE LEGISLATOR SHOULD CONSIDER MAKING MARIJUANA OR ANY OTHER ILLICIT DRUG MORE ACCESSIBLE.

SIX NATIONS, INCLUDING OUR OWN, HAVE NOW LINKED MARIJUANA CALLED "SKUNK" TO SCHIZOPHRENIA. MARIJUANA HAS AN INCREASED POTENCY OF 175% SINCE THE 70'S, REPORTS FORMER HHS SECRETARY JOSEPH CALIFANO. (SEE INTERNET SEARCH: "MARIJUANA175% MORE POTENT CALIFANO" HIT SEARCH AND IT SHOULD COME UP.

ALSO CHECK "MARIJUANA SCHIZOPHRENIA, THE INDEPENDENT, CANNABIS--AN APOLOGY." THESE TWO ITEMS SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR---DECRIMINALIZATION/LEGALIZATION IS NOT THE WAY TO GO.

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NALEPKA CO-SPONSORED LEGISLATION THAT CLOSED MARYLAND'S DRUG PARAPHERNALIA SHOPS AND WITH THE HELP OF NANCY REAGAN, BILL MARRIOTT, CAROL BURNET, TIM CONWAY AND THOUSANDS OF PARENTS, DIRECTED THE MOVEMENT THAT CLOSED THEM NATIONWIDE.

ANYONE WHO READS A NEWSPAPER SHOULD KNOW THAT AMERICA'S CHILDREN ARE AT GREATEST RISK OF DRUG ADDICTION AND DEATH. THERE ARE CURRENTLY 118,000 YOUNG PEOPLE IN TREATMENT FOR MARIJUANA PROBLEMS ALONE!